New Nouveau Brunswick CANADA

News Release

Communications New Brunswick

N. B. Human Rights Commission

Human rights conference and consultation Oct. 21 (02/10/16)

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FREDERICTON (CNB) - On Monday Oct. 21, Fredericton will be the host city of a daylong human rights conference and consultation to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the New Brunswick Human Rights Act.

"Human rights is a field which is continually evolving," said Dr. Patrick Malcolmson, chair of the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission. "A major challenge confronting the commission is keeping pace with change, changes in society and in the law. That is why we want to look at the past and present of human rights in New Brunswick and to consult with the public about our future direction."

The conference, which is called Human Rights in New Brunswick: Past, Present and Future, will feature addresses on this theme by Dr. Malcolmson and by former commission chairs Senator Noël Kinsella and Dr. Constantine Passaris.

Michèle Caron, a Law professor at the Université de Moncton, will deliver the luncheon keynote address on pay equity. Other speakers during the day will include Justice Minister Brad Green, Jim Paine, RCMP Chief Superintendent, Judy Budovitch, Chief Rentalsman, and Rosella Melanson, executive director of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

One of the conference panels will focus on security and human rights issues raised by the September 11 terrorist attack. Another panel will offer the public the opportunity to comment on a newly released discussion paper about the future direction of the Human Rights Commission. Other panels will permit public feedback concerning draft guidelines just issued by the Commission on housing, including adult-only housing, and on drug and alcohol testing.

These consultation papers may be found at: http://www.gnb.ca/hrc-cdp/e/consul1e.htm

The conference will conclude with a public lecture by Anne Adams, a commissioner of the Canadian Human Rights Commission, about how the diversity of human rights legislation in Canada has impacted on Canada's ability to meet its international human rights obligations. This lecture, which is free, will start at 7 p.m. at the Edmund Casey Hall of St. Thomas University. It will be followed by a question period and reception.

People wishing to register for the daytime conference/consultation may do so by phoning 506-452-0549 or 506-452-7818 no later than Oct. 17. The fee is $25. The evening lecture is free. French/English interpretation will be available.

2008-00952/

The symposium is being organized by the Atlantic Human Rights Centre, the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission and the Constitutional and Human Rights Law Section of the Canadian Bar Association.

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